



**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**RTID 0648-XQ011**

**Permits; Foreign Fishing**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of application for transshipment permit; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS publishes for public review and comment information regarding a permit application for transshipment of farmed salmon from aquaculture operations in Maine to processing plants in Canada by Canadian flagged vessels. The application for a transshipment permit is submitted under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). This action is necessary for NMFS to make a determination that the permit application can be approved.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received by *[insert date 14 days after date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER]*.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on this action, identified by RTID 0648-XQ011 should be sent to Kent Laborde in the NMFS Office for International Affairs and Seafood Inspection by email at *kent.laborde@noaa.gov*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kent Laborde at (301) 427-8364 or by email at *kent.laborde@noaa.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Section 204(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1824(d)) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to issue a transshipment permit authorizing a vessel other than a vessel of the United States to engage in fishing consisting solely of transporting fish or fish products at sea from a point within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or, with the concurrence of a state, within the boundaries of that state, to a point outside the United States.

Section 204(d)(3)(D) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act provides that an application to transship from U.S. waters to another country using non-U.S. vessels may not be approved until the Secretary determines that “no owner or operator of a vessel of the United States which has adequate capacity to perform the transportation for which the application is submitted has indicated ... an interest in performing the transportation at fair and reasonable rates.” NMFS is publishing this notice as part of its effort to make such a determination with respect to the application described below and specifically seeks comment from any owner or operator of a vessel of the United States, which has adequate capacity to perform the transportation of fish described below at fair and reasonable prices.

### **Summary of Application**

NMFS received an application from True North Salmon Limited Partnership and 697002 NB, Inc., requesting authorization to transfer salmon from United States farm pens in Maine to four Canadian vessels for the purpose of transporting the salmon to Black’s Harbour, Canada for processing.

The transshipment operations will occur within the boundaries of the State of Maine and within 12 nautical miles from Maine's seaward boundary.

Dated: June 11, 2020.

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Alexa Cole,

Director, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection,

National Marine Fisheries Service.

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